GUARANTEED WEEKLY CIRCULATION—20,000 COPIES.

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 23. SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd, Great Demonstration

At EAST INDIA DOCK GATES, Poplar,
4 p.m.

Speakers:
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
JOSEPH CLAYTON,
JOHN SCURR, Mrs. WALKER,
Mrs. DRAKE and others.

To demand that the Government shall control the food supplies in the interests of all, and give votes to women. To arrange for a deputation of working women to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Aug. 23rd, 4 p.m. Demonstration at East India Dock Gates.
Monday, Aug 24th, 3 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Member's Meeting.
8 p.m—The Women's Hall, Bow—Speakers' Class.
8 p.m.—Custom House, Freemason's Road—Mrs. Bouvier.
8.30 p.m.—South Hackney, Swiss Cottage, —Mrs. Walker.
Tuesday, Aug. 25th, 2.30 p.m.—Hackney, 30 Churchill Road—Mrs. Walker & others.
8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Coutts Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
Wednesday, Aug. 26th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Rd.—Miss Paterson.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Bouvier.
Thursday, Aug. 27th, 3 p.m.—319 E. India Dock Rd., Poplar—Women's Meeting—Miss Paterson.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, 124 Barking Rd.
Friday, Aug. 28th, 8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Piggott St., Poplar.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Members' Meeting.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Those who feel the importance of trying to provide work at adequate rates of payment, rather than to give doles of food or money to people who are in distress through the present war, are asked to aid the work of the E.L.F.S., and in particular to take note of the announcements of the Employment Bureau which will appear each week in the "Woman's Dreadnought."

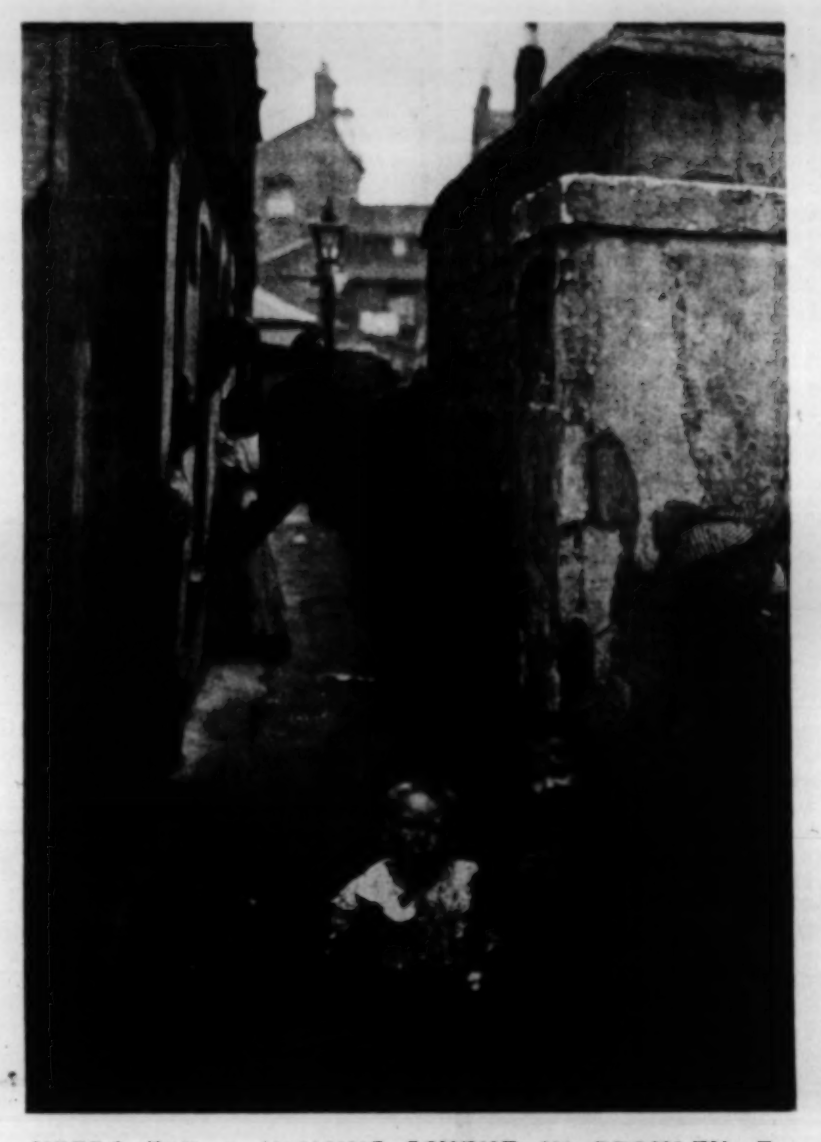
Mention was made last week of brush makers and makers of bespoke boots and shoes thrown out of work. Orders have been received for two kinds of brushes; more orders are needed. This week the Bureau has on its books a crochet worker and several women who do plain sewing. Orders for crochet edgings, shawls, jerseys, etc., and for all sorts of plain sewing should be sent to Miss Maud Joachim, Secretary of the Bureau, at Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow, E. It is especially urged that those who wish to send clothes, etc., to our field-hospitals abroad, should help the women at home, also by paying for the same to be made instead of making them themselves. Working parties of well-to-do people who are doing work which might be given to genuine working women, must realise that they are taking the bread out of the mouths of those women whose regular employment is needlework, and that in seeking to alleviate distress abroad they increase it at home.

During the week we have received some orders from persons who wish to send brushes to the wounded soldiers. These we have been able to pass on to unemployed brush makers.

We have had some applications for domestic servants.

A fur dresser applies for work. She can renovate fur coats and do general needlework.

Men and women french polishers and many tailoresses and sewing machinists have applied to us for work.



NEEDS FOR A HOUSING SCHEME IN BROMLEY, E.

We are keeping the Votes for Women flag flying.

SPECIAL WOMEN'S MEETINGS

HELD AT
30 CHURCHILL RD., HACKNEY,
Tuesdays at 3.
319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD,
POPLAR. Weds. at 8. Thurs. at 3.
124 BARKING ROAD,
CANNING TOWN. Thursdays at 8.

DISTRESS.

Bow, Bromley & Poplar Distress Committee delays to act.

The Poplar Distress Committee still delays to act. At the first meeting on Monday, August 17th, the only definite piece of work done, in spite of the urgent appeals for action by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Susan Lawrence and others, was, to form a General Purposes Sub-Committee to meet on Thursday the 20th, and to decide that the Distress Committee shall meet again on Monday, August 24th.

Milk for Babies.

The Women's Emergency Corps are in the meantime sending milk to the E.L.F.S. headquarters, at the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow, and this is being distributed in cases of serious urgency.

Many of the babies are ill and cannot digest the milk. White of egg beaten up in water is what they need and we should be grateful to friends who would send us gifts of eggs to be used for this purpose.

Advice in cases of illness.

We are arranging to have a nurse at the Women's Hall every day at 3 p.m., to give advice to the mothers.

All mothers will be welcomed to these consultations. Be sure to bring your own baby if it is ill.

Miss Smith has kindly agreed to help in this way, but other volunteers are needed.

TO PREVENT UNEMPLOYMENT.

Urge your local authorities to build new schools, alms-houses, and hospitals, to pull down slums and build new workmen's cottages, and to undertake street improvements. Now is the time to do away with the defective old drainage system and to treat the sewage on the land where it can be turned to good use for agricultural purposes. Now is the time to start building a new water main or reservoir. Now is the time to get horse trams electrified or to have a new tramway opened. Additional parks and open spaces should be laid out now. Land should be developed and reclaimed. Those who are members of distress committees and local bodies should see to this.

The Government has suspended the delivery of express letters, yet this work would provide employment for numbers of young people who are out of work. The Government ought immediately to re-open this department to find work for our boys and girls. If they will not do it themselves, let them give one of the women's organisations in each town facilities for running an express letter service. The profits after adequate wages had been paid to be handed over to the relief of distress.

The Government and the local governing bodies are making their men and women clerks work overtime. Women are working till 12 p.m., and sleeping all night at the War Office we are told. At the same time private firms have nothing for their clerks to do. Cannot the Government take on some of those who have been dismissed and stop all overtime?

Many teachers at present have classes of upwards of 70 children. See that this bad system is put an end to and additional teachers are employed. Some of those married women teachers whom the L.C.C. have dismissed may have husbands at the war. They should all be re-engaged now. If you want to give anything for the troops employ some workless woman to do it.

Don't set school children to work at sewing that should find bread for grown women. Try to induce the Government to allow Local Education Authorities to provide maintenance scholarships for girls and boys up to 16 or 17, and thus leave the labour market to older workers.

One way of relieving distress, if you can afford to do so, is to provide the money for maintenance scholarships on your own account.

IMPERIALISM AND THE PEOPLE'S FOOD.

Messrs. H. N. Bathgate & Co., wheat exporters, have sent an article to the *East End News* in which they say that apart from the war, the poor crops of spring wheat in Russia, Canada and America would permit of an allround advance in price of 4s. a quarter. The prohibition of the exportation of grain by Russia and other countries, because of the war, has "*naturally* caused an advance in Canada and America," say Messrs. Bathgate, wheat at Winnipeg being now 10s. a quarter more, than a month ago. However, as Canada and the U. S. A. have now a second crop of "unprecedented dimensions" and England also has a specially good crop, Messrs. Bathgate think that prices will fall a little during the next week or two.

All this sounds terribly sinister to those of us who realize that this rise in prices means starvation to poor people whose wages are falling to vanishing point just now. It is the duty of the Government to buy up stocks of necessaries and sell them to the people at normal prices, letting the State bear what loss there may be. But surely if Imperialism means anything, the traders in our Colonies, who are supposed to be patriots, should be induced to refrain from piling up profits at the expense of the mother country in this hour of her direst need!

HAVE ENGLISH HENS GONE ON STRIKE?

A letter from the country tells us that small farmers have been obliged to charge more for their eggs, owing to the fact that the prices of the grain with which hens are fed has gone up, and is sometimes hard to get at any price. This shows the need for the Government to control the supply of grain. Our correspondent also tells us that people in a small way of business have difficulty in getting the grain carried, so many horses having been taken for the war. This she points out is a serious matter, as the supply of eggs largely depends on the enterprise of cottagers. We would draw attention to the fact that the amount of Maize or Indian Corn imported into this country last week was 1,007,200 cwts., as compared with 1,056,800 cwts. imported during the corresponding week last year (a difference of less than 5 per cent.), while for the importation of Wheat the figures are:—1914: 2,426,700 cwts.; 1913: 2,511,500 cwts. (less than 4 per cent. difference); it is, therefore, not scarcity which is forcing up the price of grain, but the unscrupulous greed of wholesale traders. The only remedy is public control of the supply through the Government.

We present the following figures without comment to our readers.

Quantities of food-stuffs imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended August 15th, 1914, together with the quantities imported during the corresponding week of 1913 (from the *London Gazette*):—

	1913 cwts.	1914 cwts.
Beef (fresh) ..	184,405 ..	196,215
Beef (salted or preserved) ..	722 ..	1,555
Bacon	105,645 ..	66,890
Butter	92,160 ..	43,042
Margarine ..	31,011 ..	18,321
Cheese	64,045 ..	72,014
Milk (condensed)	20,716 ..	17,169
(preserved, other kinds)	171 ..	390
Bananas (bunches)	202,163 ..	290,300

RISING PRICES.

Mrs. Parsons, of Canning Town, writes that Haricot Beans, which used to be 2½d. a quart, are now 4d.; White Flour, which was 2½d. and 3½d. a quartern, is now 3½d. and 3⅞d.

A REBEL SONG.

Be not afraid, whate'er they say,
Tyrant and priest, and threatening gun!
Thy father for one inch of way
Died—with his face towards the sun.

Fear not their chains, my little child,
None are so vile and strong as fear;
Hope guards the prisoned eagle wild,
Truth's voice from living tombs speaks clear.

The vultures on the lion feed!
But let this be thine inmost stay:
There's heaven in hell for those who bleed
To win an inch of Freedom's way.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St., Strand, W.C.: LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 23.—Saturday, Aug. 22nd, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

HOW TO MEET HARDSHIP.

Up and down the Old Ford Road, under our windows, women were wont to hurry past, pushing babies perambulators or rough packing cases on wheels, laden with trousers, coats and waistcoats that they were making for the factories. But now, with their little conveyances all empty, they linger hopeless. "Any work?" a woman always asks her neighbour, as she meets her. The answer is always "No."

Work, food prices, rent and war,—these are the three things talked of. Even now we have just heard, at the door, that a neighbouring brush factory will close down on Saturday, turning its hundreds of women workers adrift, and a women has just told us that her husband, a french polisher of pianos, has lost his work with 180 other men.

SOLDIER'S WIVES.

Distress is everywhere. Many of the soldiers' wives have as yet received no allowance from the War Office. Some have applied and have been kept waiting, others have not known how or where to apply. Some will have to wait a month before being paid.

Some of the men who have gone to war were snatched away at a few hours notice and many of their wives do not know where they are.

"I had one letter," a woman told me "he wrote that he was going on a boat, but he didn't know any more." She looked at me sadly, "only those that have anyone sent away can tell what it means not to know whether you'll ever see them again and whether you'll be left with three or four children to bring up," she said.

It is hardest for the Reservist's wives, who never faced the fact that they were marrying soldiers.

One woman told me that her husband had been given only three hour's leave to say goodbye to her, when he was told that he must go. He had served his time in the army before she knew him, and she did not realise until that day what his being a Reservist might some time mean. He had given her 10s. when he was leaving and she had made it last as long as she could. But it was all spent now. We stood talking in the road together, she with a terribly wearied anxious face. Her two dark eyed chubby little boys came running to her with the wilted look so many of the children have now. The babies are very wan and white faced, with thin cold little hands and dull pain-filled eyes that look far older than their mothers'. I asked the two boys what they had for dinner at the school. They told me "yesterday meat pies, to-day boiled rice and currant bread at twelve o'clock." "They wanted more bread from me when they came home," the mother said. I asked them if they could have a second helping at school if they wanted it. They said: "They'll give you more when they have any left."

A boy of 14 was wheeling a perambulator in which were two little babies. "Are they twins?" I asked. "No," he said, "one is my sister's, and the other is from next door. I'm minding the babies whilst they do their work."

One of the babies was crying. "She isn't very well," the boy nurse said compassionately. The other baby was thinner paler and older eyed. He told me that its mother was a soldier's wife.

The mother was quite a girl—not yet 20, if one could judge by her appearance—with a neat little head, with close brown braids, and an earnest careworn little face. She was married 15 months ago and her baby is now four months old.

On May 4th, her husband, who was a Reservist, told her that he was going to do his fortnight's training and she heard no more from him. After weeks of waiting, she wrote to the War Office, and was told that he had enlisted in the Regulars at Colchester.

She went to the Thames Police Court for advice. A summons against her husband was issued, and on July 13th he was brought to the court and ordered to pay 5s. a week for the maintenance of his wife and child. On returning to Colchester, he was imprisoned for 14 days, for having falsely declared that he was unmarried on enlistment, but not one instalment of the five shillings a week maintenance was ever paid. Week, after week, the wife went to the police court to ask for her money, yet though it is the duty of the Army officials to stop the money out of a soldier's pay in such cases, she never received a farthing.

Here is a case of scandalous and cruelly callous neglect on the part of the Army authorities, for which there is the less excuse, because it began long before war was declared!

Meanwhile, when the baby was two months old, the mother got work at a rope factory. She earned 8s. a week, paying 2s. for her baby to be minded, and 6s. to her father for board and lodging, leaving herself nothing at all for dress and other expenses.

The baby was well enough then, but hurrying home to feed him in the short dinner hour affected her milk. The child could not digest it, and suffered from sickness and wasting. She took to feeding him on condensed milk, but his health became worse. A week ago she began staying at home to take care of him, but, as she said, she had "lost" her milk by then. Her father is working short time—a fortnight out of work, a week in. She has written to the War Office, but has almost lost hope of getting any help.

That is one of the cases that shows chronic mismanagement and misfortune, but distress due to the war is everywhere around us.

The other night at the Dockers' Union meeting, the Chairman of the branch wrote to ask that the 5s. he had earned for presiding over the meetings for half a quarter, might be sent to his destitute mother. Two old people living near us were left without a penny when the five sons who maintained them went to the front.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Rightly enough the export of various foodstuffs is being forbidden by the Government, and many food and sugar factories are closing down or working short time. At Morton's in Millwall, the women and girls are having the little work that is going shared out equally amongst them, and are each of them earning 5s. a week—a miserable sum to exist on with high rents and rising prices, but many workers are even worse off than they, for all the factories, except those connected with the business of warfare, are working short time or closing down.

What can be done to secure work for the workers, and food and necessaries for the people?

HOUSING.

One great avenue of employment may be provided by erecting permanently useful buidings.

The Government has wisely passed an Emergency Housing Act, to give the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Local Government Board in Boroughs, power to erect good houses for the people, in order both to improve housing conditions and to provide work for the unemployed. By this Act £4,000,000 has been set apart for this purpose, and Local Authorities should at once prepare housing schemes and appeal for grants to set the good work afoot.

We who live in East London cannot fail to see the need for the Act all around us, but overcrowding is common also in country districts.

When new houses are being built the point of view of the women, who have to make homes of them, is too often overlooked. Only too often great barrack dwellings are built in the place of old-fashioned cottages, and in spite of improved sanitary accommodation, the women's hardships are increased by the steep flights of stairs, up and down which they must somehow lug their babies and parcels, and by the reduction in the size of their living rooms.

It may cost more in money to build cottages with gardens, and grouped round a central square in which the children may play, but the Nation's children should be dearer to us than gold or paper money, and thousands of baby lives would be saved each year if our housing conditions could be improved.

Can we not get some charitable ground landlords in this rush of patriotism to gives sites for houses with gardens and playgrounds in crowded districts, or even to reduce the rents? Those who have a few hundreds of pounds to give away could find no better way of doing so than in building a workman's cottage or buying a piece of land to make into a play garden for the children of many little homes.

A good workman's cottage with two bedrooms, and a large living room and scullery, can be built in London for £200, in the country for from £150 to £200. A cottage with three larger bedrooms can be built for £240.

There is a piece of waste land in Bow large enough to build several cottages on, or to make a good playground, that could be bought for about £80.

Many parts of East London are badly supplied with parks and playgrounds, but there are many vacant building lots to let or sell.

The employment which the building of houses and the preparation of playgrounds would provide for numbers of men would be infinitely more beneficial to them than any number of charitable doles.

But what about the women? The wives of the builders' men would still be dispensing the wages and caring for their homes. There would still be work for the women and men employed in making the proportion of clothes, food and other things consumed by the families kept going by the building operations. Should need arise the women would help in building as they do abroad.

The local authorities must set to work with building schemes under the new Act, of course, but what private individuals will pay for some extra cottages and play-grounds?

CHEAP RESTAURANTS.

In Christiania in Norway, many cheap and good restaurants have been started, which are run quite apart from profit making. These consist of a shop, where uncooked food may be bought to be cooked in various ways at a small additional cost and taken home to eat, and a restaurant proper. The restaurant usually provides two-course and three-course meals, well cooked, at very low cost. In many cases there is a buffet where customers pay for their meals, and themselves carry the dishes to the tables where they eat.

Such cheap restaurants would be very useful at this crisis, free tickets to the restaurants being given in urgent cases. The restaurants might pave the way for the future co-operative house-keeping schemes, for which so many women long to day, but which have not hitherto been put into practical use in working-class districts.

Many women are turning their attention to the making of garments for the soldiers and the destitute. We wish to implore them most earnestly not to make clothes for the soldiers but to leave this work to be done by the women who live by this, thousands of whom are already on the verge of starvation. Paid work is infinitely more precious to these women than charitable doles.

MOTHERS AT HOME.

Expectant mothers, women with little babies and many young children cannot go out into factories and ought not to be obliged to take in extra work at home. These women, who for one cause or another have lost their breadwinner, must have food and fuel found for them. One of the best possible ways of helping is to pay the women who are thrown out of employment to make clothes for the destitute mothers who cannot and must not work.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

TYPICAL CASES.

(1) Husband, tallow worker, earning 24s. Thrown out of work a fortnight ago: ordered away with Territorials on Saturday, August 15th. There is one young baby and the mother is expecting another at any moment so cannot go out to work. She has absolutely no money and most of her things have been pawned. The landlady who lives in the same house has helped as much as she can, but is very short of money herself. The mother pays 3s. 6d. for two rooms.

(2) Husband a carman, thrown out of work the last fortnight. There are four children of whom a girl of 14 earns 6s., a boy earns 5s. They pay 7s. 3d. rent, leaving 3s. 9d. for six people to live on.

(3) Husband, labourer, earning 21s. when in work. Has now been out of work three weeks. They have four children of whom the eldest is four. Their rent is 5s. for two rooms, and there is absolutely nothing coming in.

(4) Husband in hospital. There are two young children, whose mother worked at Clarnico's, but has been turned off owing to the war. She has had no money since 29th, except a little from the Parish.

(5) Husband a labourer, earning 24s. when in work. Works closed down on Wednesday, August 12th till September 1st. There are five children, the youngest just born.

(6) Husband a case maker. Used to earn 30s. to 36s., but has now been out of work for three weeks. The wife is nearly blind. There is one child. The rent is 9s. 6d., of which a lodger pays 3s.

(7) Widow just out of infirmary after eight weeks' illness. Son and daughter both working half time. Son only earns 12s. 6d. and the daughter 5s. 6d. *full time.* The rent is 4s.

(8) Husband ill with Bright's disease. Wife supported herself and him till last March, when she was worn out, at 62 years of age. Their five sons, who have kept them since, are at the war.

(9) Widow with child of five has lost her charing, as people cannot afford to employ her since the war began. Her son is a Territorial.

(10) Mother of three children (aged five years, three years, one month) earned 5s. as box maker, but has lost that through the war. Husband was a fur dresser, became consumptive, and had 10s. panel money, but is going into hospital.

(11) Mother of ten children. Husband and eldest son and daughter have lost their work through the war. The lodger, who is a confectioner, has also lost her work.

(12) Wife of a Territorial. Has two children and is expecting another. Gets 1s. 5d. a day from the War Office; pays 6s. rent, leaving 3s. 11d. to buy food, etc.

(13) Husband a motor driver, put out of work through the war a fortnight ago. Five children, one of whom earns 10s a week. Rent 14s. a week.

(14) Husband a silversmith, lost work through war a fortnight ago. Five children. Rent 13s., of which a lodger pays 5s.

Father a labourer gone to war, left no money, nothing received from War Office. Three children aged 4½, 2½, and six months. Mother earned 3s. by trouser finishing last week.

Father a piano french polisher, his firm shut down because of war, done no work since August Bank Holiday. Had a lot of short time this year but was looking forward to what should be the busy season. Rent 7s., mother earned 6s. last week by polishing brushes. Three children, aged four years, two years, 5 months.

Father a labourer gone to war, rent 4s., baby in arms very ill.

Father out of work through war, four children, one a baby in arms. No money, everything pawned, rent 5s. for two rooms.

Son at war, father cripple only able to do odd jobs, now out of work. Mother dying of phthisis.

DOCKERS AGREE WITH US.

The Poplar Export Branch of the Dockers' Union has passed the following resolution:—

"That this Union calls upon the Mayor and Borough Council of Poplar to set up a committee to control the prices and supplies of food, fuel, and other necessaries, also the price of rent during the war: representatives of organised labour, including the various women's organisations, to be strongly represented on the committee; wholesale and retail traders also to be represented, but not to be allowed more than one-third of the membership of this committee: the committee to be given compulsory power to provide—

1. That all food stuffs, etc., at present available shall be sold at normal prices.
2. That a schedule of what are regarded as normal prices be drawn up and supplied to shopkeepers.
3. Any shopkeeper failing to comply with this schedule shall be refused supplies.
4. That no person buying at the shop be allowed more than one week's supplies, and that a stamp system be introduced with provision for dating same, the customer to produce that stamp before obtaining supplies for a further amount."

Bristol Dockers have passed a similar resolution.

Many poor mothers will find it impossible to pay rent and buy food during the war. It is better to refuse to pay the rent than to take the food out of your children's mouths.

Volunteers are wanted to prevent intimidation and eviction.

A. E. WAKEFIELD, 259 Old Ford Road. Grocer.—General Stores.—Goods of best quality. Clubs held.

MATES.

By W. W. GIBSON.

Persons: MARTIN AYNSLEY, *a pitman.*
CHARLOTTE AYNSLEY, *his mother.*
GRACE HARDY, *his betrothed.*
Scene: CHARLOTTE AYNSLEY'S *cottage.*
CHARLOTTE AYNSLEY *and* GRACE HARDY *stand by the fire talking together.*

C.: Nay, Lass! I cannot turn him;
He pays no heed to me:
He'll have his will, for all that I can say.
He's just his father over.
GRACE: But, have you said . . . .
C.: Said! Have I not said all to him
A mother's heart can say—
A heart left mateless,
And with one son left . . . .
How could I leave a single word unspoken
To save the only son that's left me—
To save him from the death
That overtook his father and his brothers,
That night . . . .
When I . . . .
I slumbered soundly;
And never dreamt of danger,
While they, my husband and my sons . .
And Martin—
Though 'twas only by a hair's breadth
That he himself escaped,
And came to me again—
Yet, he'll not leave the pit,
For all my pleading,
Perhaps if you . . . .
GRACE: Nay! But I've talked, and talked, with him;
And he would answer nothing.
I could not win a word from him,
Will you not try again?
CHARLOTTE: Try, daughter, try!
What is there left to try?
How could I leave a stone unturned!
Do I not lie awake the livelong night,
To think of ways and means
To keep him from the pit?
I've scarcely slept a wink since . . . .
Since that night—
That night I slept so soundly . . . . .
(Pause.)
It seems as though he could not break with it—
The pit that all his folk have worked in.
It's said his father's grandfather
Was born at the pit-bottom—
Aye, daughter! Born and died there:
For, two days after he was married,
They found him, crushed beneath a rock
Dead, in the very shaft—
The very shaft in which his mother bore him:
For women-folk worked in the pits in those days,
Young girls & mothers near their time,
And little children, naked . . . .
GRACE: But is there nothing else that Martin
Would care to try his hand at?
CHARLOTTE: Have I not offered, lass,
To set him up in any trade he fancies?
This very morn when he came in,
I said I'd buy a horse and cart,
With stock-in-trade for him to hawk:
For hawking's scarce a job
That needs a man brought up to it.
At least, I thought that he . . . .
GRACE: What did he say?
CHARLOTTE: He only laughed at first;
But, when I pressed him, shrugged his shoulders,
You know the way he has with him,
And looked me straight betwixt the eyes—
Looked at me with his father's eyes—
And then he said:
"Nay, mother! I'm a pitman;
And I must take my chance among my mates."
He's just his father over . . . .
GRACE: That was all?
C.: All, daughter! Was it not enough?
There's nothing more to say.
He will not leave the pit,
Although his father and his brothers . .
And he, himself . . . .
I never shall sleep soundly any more—
Though sound I slept that night,
While they were dying . . . . I . . . .
GRACE: I'll speak with him again.
Perhaps . . . .
C.: Aye, lass: he'll listen unto you,
If he'll pay heed to anyone.
G.: Oh, Charlotte, do you think that I . .
When you his mother . . . .
Do you think he cares . . . .
He cares so much for me?
If I could only turn him!
And yet, if he'll not heed . . . .
C.: It seems I've lost my hold:
He's broken from my apron strings,
It's your turn now;
And you must try your strength with him.
He's stubborn: but he's fond of you:
And when his heart is set on anything,
He's just his father over.
When Stephen first walked out with me,
His mother bade . . . .
But Martin's stirring:
I must get his bait.
Aye! even while we talk of him, he's dressing
To go upon the night-shift.
Talk! Talk!
GRACE: Yet, I must try to save him.
If I could only turn . . . .
CHARLOTTE: Pray God, you may!
There's still a chance;
Though I . . . .
It's your turn now.
I'm only Martin's mother:
But, you . . . .
When Stephen wooed me, I was more to him . . . .
And you'll be more to Martin . . . .
How he whistles!
His heart, at least, is light enough.
And in a moment he'll be out.
I'll leave you here to wait for him,
And speak with him, alone:
And if he asks for me,
Say that I'm seeking coals—
Coals! seeking coals!
God knows their cost . . . .
Sometimes I cannot bear to see a fire,
And think of all the burning lives . . . .
He'll soon be out.
His bait is on the table:
Though I'll be back before he leaves.
GRACE: Nay, do not go.
What can I say to him!
C.: Your heart will tell you, if you love . .
But here he comes.
(She picks up the scuttle and shovel and goes out. Martin Aynsley enters from the inner room.)
MARTIN: Mother, this button . . . .
You here, lass!
I thought I heard my mother's voice,
But did not know who talked with her.
Has she gone out?
I wanted . . . .
GRACE: Come, lad, I'll sew the button on
MARTIN: You, Grace!
Well, you've got nimble fingers.
But, mother, lass . . . .
GRACE: She'll not be long.
Come nearer to the window.
Nay, but you must stand quietly,
Or you'll be pricked in no time.
MARTIN: Nay, then I'd best be quiet,
For I shall often want you . . . .
I play the deuce with buttons.
You're not afraid, lass, when you think of all . . . .
GRACE: Nay, I'll not mind the buttons:
They'll be the least . . . .
MARTIN: The least?
G.: If wives had nought to do for men.
But sew on buttons,
They would thank their stars.
But, maybe, someone else than I
Will sew yours on for you.
MARTIN: Why, Grace, who else?
GRACE: Who knows!
The chance is, you'll go buttonless,
For any stitch that I . . . .
MARTIN: What ails you, lass?
You would not have your husband . . .
GRACE: My husband! Nay; I'll tend my husband:
'Twas you that I was speaking of.
M.: Well; I don't understand you:
But if you keep your husband's buttons on,
Then I'll go snug and decent.
GRACE: Lad, don't you be too sure.
MARTIN: Too sure! Why, Grace?
But you, you cannot help yourself.
I've set my heart upon you;
And mother says I am stubborn.
GRACE: And if I'm stubborn, too!
M.: You, Grace! But you don't know me!
GRACE: And, are you sure you've nought to learn of me?
MARTIN: I'm sure, you're mine, beyond all help.
You're true to me . . . .
GRACE: God knows, I'm true . . . .
But still . . . . it's not too late . . . .
M.: Come, woman! no more foolishness,
You're stitched to me as firmly as this button
That you've sewn on so strongly.
GRACE: As firmly! yes: I sewed it on:
But I can snip it off with much less labour.
MARTIN: Not if I hold the scissors!
(Snatches them up.)
Nay! you may tug, and tug:
Your work will stand it easily:
'Twill not give way, though you should tug my shirt off.
Your work's too good: and you are mine, as surely . . . .
But, lass, enough of this.
If I had only known that you were here,
I would . . . . yet, you and she—
You seemed to have enough to talk of,
Without me . . . .
GRACE: Aye! we'd much to talk of.
MARTIN: When only half awake, I heard you at it:
And lay, and wondered what 'twas all about.
You womenfolk must always chatter, chatter:
You've got such restless tongues.
GRACE: And yet, it is the men that keep them wagging.
MARTIN: The men?
GRACE: Foolhardy, heedless men,
That don't care how they break the women's peace.
MARTIN: Ah, now, I understand!
There's more than buttons!
I've little need to ask what kept you talking.
You've put your heads together: but, it's useless.
I cannot leave the pit, though you should talk till doomsday:
So let no more be said.
GRACE: For my sake, Martin!
MARTIN: Your sake, Grace?
There's little I'd not do for you, you know, lass, but not this.
You would not have me cowardly, for your sake?
How should I face my mates, if I forsook them?
You would not have me spend my days,
A cur, with tail betwixt my legs,
And slinking round the nearest corner,
Whenever my old mates went by
To take their usual shift?
Nay; I will hold my head up,
A man, among the men,
For your sake—aye! for your sake!
GRACE: And who would dare to call you coward—
Who, knowing all you've been through?
MARTIN: There's one who knows what I've been through,
Who'd call me coward.
GRACE: Who, lad?
MARTIN: Can you ask?
One, Martin Aynsley.
GRACE: Aye . . . . and yet . . . .
If you care naught for me,
Think of your mother, Martin.
You know she's lost her husband,
And all her sons but you;
And cannot rest, while you are in the pit.
MARTIN: You know I care for you; and think of her;
And yet, I'm sure of one thing,
Though you may little think it now,
If I forsook the pit,
The time would surely come
When you would both despise me in your hearts.
GRACE: Nay, Martin!
MARTIN: Grace, I know:
It's sure as death.
I cannot leave the pit.
My father died,
And I will die, a pitman.
You wouldn't have me throw up work
That I was born and bred to;
You surely wouldn't have me
Throw over all my mates—
The lads I went to school with,
That I've grown up with,
Played and worked with,
And had such larks . . . .
There's not too many of them left now . .
But all there are went through that night with me.
Before that night,
Perhaps, I might have left them;
But now, how could I!
Nay, I'll take my chance.
G.: Then someone else must sew . . .
MARTIN: Hark!
GRACE: What d'you hear?
MARTIN: I thought I heard him whistling.
GRACE: Who, lad?
M.: I thought 'twas Nicholas, my mate:
But that was not his whistle.
He always whistles for me,
Every night at Jackson's Corner;
And we go to work together.
G.: Aye! he'd whistle you to death . . .
And you . . . . you'd follow . . . .
MARTIN: Shame upon you, lass!
How can you talk like that!
You know as well as I do
That, but for him, I'd be a dead man now.
'Twas he alone who dragged me—
Who dragged me from the death
That overtook my father & my brothers.
Grace, he did not forsake me:
Shall I desert him now?
He sought me, at the first alarm,
And we two fled together,
Before the creeping choke-damp,
Until it gained upon us;
And I was overcome;
And dropped, to die:
When Nicholas picked me up,
And bore me in his arms,
Along the stifling galleries—
Stumbling over dead and dying
Every step he staggered.
Though he could scarcely struggle
Against the damp himself,
He bore me into safety:
And kept the spark of life in me,
Till we, at last were rescued.
G.: And yet, you'd go through that again?
M.: If need be, lass, with Nicholas.
GRACE: You love him more than me.
MARTIN: Nay, Grace! you know . . .
GRACE: Yet you'll not even leave the pit for my sake,
While you would go to death for his.
MARTIN: I'd go to death for him;
But I'd not be a coward.
For your sake, even, Grace.
G.: Then you must choose between us.
MARTIN: Grace!
G.: Aye! You must choose, and now!
I cannot lead your mother's life,
Or my own mother's, either.
You know that in the dead of night
My father and my brothers
Were lost with yours . . . and I . . .
Who saw them brought in, one by one,
And laid upon their beds,
With faces covered . . . .
How could I ever rest at all,
With that remembrance in my heart,
While you were in the pit—
With dread forever on me,
That you, too, would be brought,
And laid, a broken bundle, at my feet,
Or never come at all to me again?
How could I live,
With ears for ever listening for the rumble
Of fresh disaster?
With eyes for ever wide with dread to see
The flames leap up the shaft?
How could I sleep . . . .
(A shrill whistling is heard.)
He whistles you—your mate!
And who am I to keep you?
Forsake me now for him . . . .
And I . . . . and I . . . .
MARTIN: Grace!
G.: Nay, Martin! you must choose . . .
He whistles louder . . . .
He's impatient . . . .
Hark!
Now you must choose between us.
MARTIN: The choice is made, lass;
I choose him—and you!
(He takes her in his arms, snatches a kiss, and goes out.)
GRACE *(Gazing after him)*: The choice is made . . . .
He knows I cannot break with him.
And I must sew . . . *(Calling after him)*.
You've gone without your bait!
Martin! *(She picks up the basket and can, and runs out after him.)*

SWEATING OF WOMEN WHO MAKE SOLDIERS' SHIRTS.

Jameson's of Poplar, Government contractors, pay women 2s. 1d. a dozen for making soldiers' shirts. One woman who has been making boys' shirts for 2s. 6d. a dozen, to be sold to private firms, tells us that she refused the Government work until there was no more private work to do. She tells us that the soldiers' shirts, beside being paid at lower rates, are larger and more complicated than the others, and are of harsh stuff that makes the women's fingers sore. The shirts are dark and the cotton black, and the work therefore tries the eyes a good deal. The women can only manage to do a dozen shirts a day, by working very hard, and out of the 2s. 1d. they earn by this, they have to pay 2½d. a reel for cotton—a reel does not do quite a dozen shirts. These shirts used to be sewn with thread which cost 3d. per reel, but the women protested so much that they are allowed to use cotton now.

For finishing the same shirts—that is, sewing on buttons and making button-holes—a Canning Town employer pays 2d. a dozen shirts. They wanted to pay only 1½d. a dozen, but the women refused to work for less than 2d. At this higher rate they can only earn 6s. or 7s. a week. They too have to find their own cotton and are obliged to do the work very much more carefully and firmly than when making shirts for ordinary wear.

Strange patriotism this, that allows the Government contractors who are making money out of this war to sweat the women workers in this disgraceful fashion!

IRISH MILITANTS.

Mrs. Metge, Miss Dorothy Evans, Miss Wickham, and Miss Carson, who were accused of causing the recent explosion in Lisburn Cathedral, were hunger-striking in Belfast Prison, on remand, last week, when the general amnesty to Suffrage and other political prisoners was declared. On their release, knowing nothing of the amnesty, they continued their brave protest by breaking windows, and were taken back to prison. They have now been released!

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser (pro tem.)—Mrs. Bouvier.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

More helpers to sell at the stall in Roman Road wanted on Fridays, 6—11 p.m., and on Saturdays 11 a.m.—1 p.m., and 6—11 p.m. Many thanks to Miss Roach and Mrs. Savoy for good sale of Paper at the stall last week. Large and interested audience listened to Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Walsh and Miss Paterson in Victoria Park on Sunday. The Paper sellers did a good trade and the collection amounted to 4s. 1½d. The evening meeting in the Women's Hall started with the singing of "The Women's March" and "The Women's Marseillaise" by the Women's Choir. Both Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Bouvier, who was in the chair, urged those present to keep the "Votes for Women" flag flying and the Suffrage question well to the fore, while working in different ways to alleviate the distress caused by the war. Two new members were enrolled. Chalkers and bill distributors will be welcome on Friday and Saturday to advertise next Sunday's Demonstration. A thorough canvass of the district has been undertaken in order to facilitate the work of the Distress Committee, and members and friends are urged to help with this useful work, which gives such a splendid opportunity for enlisting new members.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Aug. 14:—
Central 280. Bow and Bromley 286.
Mrs. Payne 85

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Weaver, 200; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Husted, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Watkins, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 50.

POPLAR.

Office—319 East India Dock Road.
Organiser—Miss Mary Phillips.

Several Poplar members have been suggested for work on the sub-committees for dealing with distress in the Borough. A good number of members promised to join the party for Lobbying on Tuesday next, August 25th, and canvassing parties were also made up.

Miss Cross is selling papers on Sunday mornings at the Dock Gates. Miss Kettle started a pitch outside Poplar Station on Saturday morning, and Miss Smith distributed bills for Demonstration. Papers were sold at the East India Dock Road end of Chrisp Street, Saturday night, as well as at the Bromley end. Many more helpers wanted to work up sale.

Mrs. Schlette took out a canvassing party on Friday afternoon. Members are asked to join these parties, which leave the office on Fridays and Saturdays at 3 p.m.

All members are asked to do all they can in the short time left to make Sunday's Demonstration a success—by selling Papers, giving bills and chalking. The greater the Demonstration the more weight our demands will have. Miss Pankhurst will be at the meeting on Wednesday next (26th), which will be for members only.

152 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Aug. 14
Miss Lagsding 50

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

There was a good members' meeting on Thursday addressed by Miss Somers, and on Friday at Beckton Road. Several hundreds listened to Miss Paterson, and 37 *Dreadnoughts* were sold. A canvassing party starts from 124 Barking Road every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Members who can spare an hour are invited to do so. Miss Paterson and Mrs. Cook are in charge of party.

155 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Aug. 14

Canning Town. Dist. leader—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Tidmarsh, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Roper, and Mrs. Layton.

Plaistow. Dist. leaders—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Cook.

Custom House. Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chauntler Rd. Distributors—Miss Cox and Mrs. Pullen.

Tidal Basin. Dist. leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent Rd. Distributor—Miss Greenleaf.

Silvertown. Dist. leader—Miss G. Grimes, 27 Newland St. Distributors—Miss Nicholas, Miss Ivy Holt and friends.

HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss Young,
100 Greenwood Road, Dalston, N.E.

Large and interested crowd at Swiss Cottage, Lauriston Road, on Monday evening. An encouraging feature at this place is the number of women who come regularly to listen.

We had a good gathering of women at 30 Churchill Road on Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Walker's speech being followed with great attention and sympathy. Please remember that women's meetings are held at 30 Churchill Road every Tuesday afternoon. These meetings are a great success, and we shall soon need a larger room.

40 *Dreadnoughts* sold last week.

THE LATEST PIECE OF EXTORTION.

The price of birth certificates has been raised from 3d. to 7d., which bears particularly hardly upon mothers now, when they are forced to have them before they can get the War Office grant. One woman we know had not got 7d. to pay with.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S.

Hon. Sec.—E. A. Watson.
188 Devons Road, Bow, E.

At a general meeting held on Friday, August 14th, in the Women's Hall, Old Ford, the following new officers were elected: *President*—Robert C. Lamond, *Vice-President*—E. Cash, *Hon. Organiser*—Rev. C. A. Wills, *Hon. Sec.*—E. A. Watson, *Hon. Meetings Sec.*—J. A. Kitchen, *Hon. Minutes Sec.*—J. B. Schnacke.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

Good meeting on Wednesday night at Ford Road, when Mr. Jane and Mr. Higgins spoke. Meetings will be held next Wednesday and Friday nights at the same place. Subject: "No Rent" Strike till food supplies are taken over and votes granted to women. Tickets for a Benefit Concert in aid of Comrade Wise, of the R.S.P.U. and Gas Workers' Union, may be had from any member of the R.S.P.U. We are holding a Social in the Women's Hall on Saturday, September 19th.

36 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Aug. 14.

Bryan the American Democratic Leader declares for Votes for Women.

WHEN WILL OUR GOVERNMENT FALL INTO LINE?

William Jennings Bryan the leader of the Democratic Party, the man who in 1912 dictated the nomination of President Wilson, has come out for Votes for Women. He has announced that he will support the constitutional amendment for this purpose, which is to be decided next Autumn in his own State of Nebraska.

He says:—

"I take my position. I shall support the amendment. I shall ask no political rights for myself that I am not willing to grant to my wife.

"As man and woman are co-tenants of the earth and must work out their destiny together, the presumption is on the side of equality of treatment in all that pertains to their joint life and its opportunities. The burden of proof is on those who claim for one an advantage over the other in determining the conditions under which both shall live. This claim has not been established in the matter of suffrage. On the contrary, the objections raised to woman suffrage appear to me to be invalid, while the arguments advanced in support of the proposition are, in my judgment, convincing.

"The first objection which I remember to have heard was that, as woman could not bear arms, she should not have a voice in deciding questions that might lead to war or in enacting laws that might require an army for their enforcement. This argument is seldom offered now, for the reason that, as civilization advances, laws are obeyed, because they are an expression of the public opinion, not merely because they have powder and lead behind them. And as we look back over the past we may well wonder whether the peace movement would not have grown more rapidly than it has had woman, who suffers more than man from the results of war, been consulted before hostilities began.

"Second—It is urged by some that woman's life is already full of care, and that the addition of suffrage would either overburden her or turn her attention away from the duties of the home. The answer made to this is that the exercise of the franchise might result in the change of thought and occupation that would relieve the monotony of woman's work and give restful variety to her activities.

[Also by the exercise of the vote, women might effect a social reconstruction which would lessen their cares and anxieties. Ed.—Woman's Dreadnought.]

And surely the home will not suffer if the mother, 'the child's first teacher,' is able to intelligently discuss with her family the science of government and the art of successfully administering it.

"Third—Many well-meaning men and women affirm that suffrage would work a harm to woman by lessening the respect in which she is held. . . . This objection was once raised to the higher education of woman, but it is no longer heard.

"May not the fears sincerely entertained by opponents of woman suffrage be found to be as groundless as those that once forced the widow in eastern India to ascend the funeral pyre, or as those that now exclude Mohammedan women from the social benefits and responsibilities which the woman of the Christian world shares.

"In the States that have adopted woman suffrage (and in the other nations that have adopted it) there is no agitation for a return to the system under which man has a monoply of the right to vote? Is it not fair to assume that an effort would be made to correct the mistake if woman suffrage had really failed to give satisfaction to the people where it has been tried?

"If one were in doubt as to which side of the controversy to take, he would be justified in giving weight to the fact that organization and enthusiasm are on the side of those who favour woman suffrage. Organization is an evidence of earnestness, as well as of a comprehension of the subject.

"As for myself, I am in doubt as to my duty, but I desire to present the argument to which I give the greatest weight. Without minimising other arguments advanced in support of the extending of suffrage to woman, I place the emphasis upon the mother's right to a voice in moulding the environment which shall surround her children; an environment which operates powerfully in determining whether her offspring will crown her latter years with joy or bring down her grey hairs in sorrow to the grave.

"The Creator has placed upon the mother a burden which she could not shift if she so desired, and He has given her the disposition to bear it. Her life trembles in the balance at the child's birth; her active years are given to the care and nurture of her children; her nerve force and vital energy are expended in their behalf; her exhaustless love is poured out upon them. Because the wealth of her existence is bestowed upon them, they are part of her very being—'where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' . . . .

"The mother can justly claim the right to employ every weapon which can be made effective for the protection of those whose interest she guards and the ballot will put within her reach all the instrumentalities of government, including the police power. . . .

"Politics will not suffer by woman's entrance into it. If the political world has grown more pure in spite of evil influences that have operated to debase it, it will not be polluted by the presence and participation of woman. Neither should we doubt that woman can be trusted with the ballot. She has proven herself equal to every responsibility imposed upon her; she will not fail society in this emergency. Let her vote! And may that discernment which has, throughout the ages, ever enabled her to quickly grasp great truths,—made her 'the last at the cross and the first at the sepulcher'—so direct her in the discharge of her political duties as to add new glories to her and through her still further bless society."

Speaker Clark who is also a prominent Democrat has stated that he too will support the suffrage amendment in his own State.

Colonel Roosevelt, still perhaps the politician most in the American public eye and leader of the progressive Republicans, says:—

"I have been interested, as you know, that the activities of men and women in politics shall not be separated in water-tight compartments.

"I shall hope to see that constitutional convention provide for women suffrage. At any rate, I feel that the Progressive Party should put up and should insist upon having among the candidates whom it favors a certain proportion of women."

The fact that all American Political leaders are now, one after the other, declaring themselves to be suffragists, will hasten the coming of Votes to the Women of U. S. A. who have already secured them in eleven States. When will our English Liberal Government follow suit?

More Government Contractors.

The *Daily Citizen* reports that Messrs Warne and Co., india rubber makers of Barking and Government contractors are endeavouring to smash trade unionism amongst their employees. In March some of the women joined the National Federation of Women Workers and the firm came to an understanding that despite bad rubber the wages should not fall below 4s. a week. On August 11th, a notice was posted in the warpshed that owing to the war the department would be closed, but, though piece workers were sent home, young girls and badly paid time workers were kept to do the work. The workers who had been suspended were then told that they must consider themselves dismissed, unless they signed a form pledging themselves not to belong to a Trade Union.

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION.

The F.C.S.U. has decided to continue propaganda work as usual, as far as possible, as Welsh women consider that the present time is most opportune for pointing out the need of the voice of women in the Government of all nations.

The Sale of Work arranged to be held on October 23rd for the funds of the Union will still be held, but the whole of the proceeds will be given instead to the relief of Welsh families destitute through the war.

Contributions of money, needlework, and curios will be gratefully received by Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, Hon. Organiser, F.C.S.U., 69 Wimpole Street, W.

The British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union (London address: 9 Grafton Street, W.) is appealing to women's organisations to send money and parcels of clothing for people in distress, and is arranging for co-ordination of the work.

The Women's Freedom League is directing its energies to obtaining representation for women on citizen committees, and also to the formation of women's police corps. They, like ourselves, realise the importance of keeping the Suffrage question well to the front at a time when the public mind is all too easily turned away from it.

An "Emergency Council of Irish Women Suffragists" has been formed in Dublin by Suffragists of all shades of opinion. Their secretary writes to the *Freeman's Journal*:—

"While recognising the imperative necessity for organised remedial work, and while taking part therein we wish to emphasise our conviction that the claim for the enfranchisement of women must not be blotted out even at the present crisis. All the conditions which are the outcome of the present situation prove more than ever the absolute necessity for the enfranchisement of women."

A LETTER FROM MRS. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Although in times of peace women are ignored by the politicians of all parties, they are, neverless, expected, as a matter of course and without question, to make untold sacrifices whenever the follies or the crimes of male statecraft have plunged the nations into war. Women are denied all voice in deciding for peace or war, for arbitration or massacre; yet it is upon the women that most of the horrors and burdens of war inevitably fall.

Interested primarily in the welfare of the race, the guardians of civilisation, they recognise more clearly than men, who are easily blinded by war-passion, that war is an unmixed evil, that womanhood, a passive participant, pays its bitter toll in rapine and destruction, in famine, in horrors unnameable, wherever the monster leaves its devastating track.

The sympathies of Suffragists, of all thinking women, go out in this hour to the striken womanhood of Europe in every country that is the victim of war; women, like us, aliens in their own land, powerless to stem the time of barbarism, yet compelled to sacrifice all they hold dear at the bidding of male autocrats and war-mongering bureaucracies. With them we hope and pray that sanity may shortly be restored, and the peace of Europe re-established before her civilisation suffers eclipse. We realise more acutely than ever our parlous state, deprived of all safeguards, yet forced to expiate the crimes of Governments which we are powerless to prevent.

We trust that women will lay to heart the moral of the present situation by insisting that their claims for citizenship shall be no longer swept aside. If we are good enough to help in emergencies like the present, let us see to it that those who now beg our assistance recognise our equal rights as human beings. We are good enough for all and every service and responsibility—till the war is over. When peace is restored we shall again be reminded of our inherent disabilities, we shall be told by carpet-warriors that because we do not fight we may not vote.

While Suffragists do not deny the usefulness of many such good works as are now enthusiastically recommended to women, they remember first of all that the chief duty is to their common womanhood. They have happily no responsibility for war and its bitter consequences, and they will permit nothing to divert their energies from the achievement of their purpose. The war makes it more than ever imperative that women should be given a voice in the councils of the nations, that they may exercise a salutary check upon male aggression and militarism.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.